



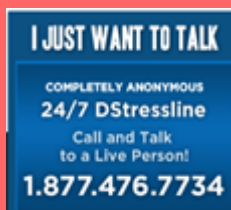
1st Battalion 12th Marines

July 2011

Battalion Commander

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Greetings again from Forward Operating Base Fiddler's Green, Nawa District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Over the last month the Marines and Sailors of 1/12 have focused on making the best of their new accommodations. As I shared with you last month, we are very dispersed and each location is unique concerning the level of services available. As the SgtMaj and I travel to visit our Marines and Sailors, I am happy to see an increased number of air conditioners and insulated tents being constructed to provide relief from the sweltering heat. The continued improvements at each location are due to the diligent efforts of many working within the battery and battalion staffs. A few more months of work and we'll have each location just the way we want it.

Many of you may be curious as to how President Obama's recent remarks regarding troop levels in Afghanistan will impact the Marines and Sailors of 1/12. His directive to begin a drawdown will have no noticeable effect on our deployment. We are still planning to complete our 7 month deployment and return to Kaneohe as scheduled. If you don't remember when our return window is, here's a hint...all of us should be home with enough time to complete our Christmas shopping in person.

Here at Fiddler's Green we continue to "partner" with our Afghan National Army (ANA) counterparts. Each day our Marines and Sailors impress me as they share their work space and eat in the dining facility together with their ANA peers. I hear our folks learning "Pashto" and "Dari" (Afghan languages) phrases and the ANA increasing their English vocabulary as they discuss their

Battalion CO Cont'd...

work responsibilities and share about each other's cultures. At our Independence Day meal, I enjoyed the company of the ANA Kandak (battalion) Commander. I shared with him the special meaning of the 4th of July to our country and then he shared with me the fact that Afghanistan has also beaten the British, three separate times. What is even more remarkable is that today throughout Afghanistan there are US, British, and Afghan forces fighting "shona ba shone" (shoulder to shoulder) for stability and security of the people of Afghanistan.

Facebook continues to be the information source of choice. The Marines and Sailors continue to be active with pictures and posts. Check the page daily for updates.

An unfortunate reality of a deployment into a combat zone is an increase of injuries that may result in a Marine or Sailor being transferred to a care facility stateside or back to Kaneohe for rehabilitation. Many of these cases involve life altering injuries that impact the individuals and their families for life. The battalion is committed to recognizing the family's needs but more importantly the family's privacy during these periods. I know the desire to assist these families exists within the battalion family network, but unless the family expresses their willingness to accept support through contact with the FRO, their privacy must be honored. Due to the sensitive nature of this issue, I encourage families to share what they know with one another with discretion. It is a command policy to limit the distribution of information about injuries and to refrain from posting it on the battalion Facebook page or website.

Back home at Kaneohe, the battalion has welcomed Captain Morris Sharber and wife, Kristen, as a new member of the battalion staff. He joins us from Quantico, VA, where he was a student at Expeditionary Warfare School. Please extend them a warm 1/12 welcome.

I continue to applaud the efforts of all of the 1/12 friends and family for your ongoing and unwavering support. Remember, deployments are marathons (26.2 miles) and not sprints, so keep a steady pace of mail, emails, FB posts, and prayers...7.486 miles down, we have a good pace, and still going strong.

Semper Fidelis,
LtCol Sean Charney
"Kahuna 6"



Battalion SgtMaj.

Aloha to the 1/12 Family, Friends and Supporters!

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone who has contributed to our deployment success thus far. It's been a busy time since we left the Unit Marshalling Area at Kaneohe Bay. As expected, each of the Batteries hit the ground running and we continue to make a difference here in Afghanistan. Between missions, the Marines and Sailors are busy conducting maintenance, training, and generally bettering themselves. You have every right to be proud of their efforts and results. The accommodations are, by and large, adequate and though we have already established our "battle rhythm" we continue to hone our skills, take care of one another and accomplish the mission.

Our Family Readiness Officer (FRO), Chris Scott, continues to work miracles daily by assisting the command in so many ways I have lost count. He is an invaluable resource in directing our families to the resources available to assist you in solving problems. I would encourage everyone to refer to the Unit Deployment Guide prior to calling Chris as many of the resources he will refer you to are found in that useful, one-stop source. However, if you don't find what you need and still have questions or concerns, please contact him at Christopher.a.scott@usmc.mil. On a different note, despite the usual early re-deployment rumors, we will be here for the duration of the planned deployment so your continued support is fully appreciated. Every Marine and Sailor loves to receive mail, so keep those letters and boxes coming.

Finally, congratulations and a big HELL YEAH to all our newly promoted Marines and newly selected Gunnery Sergeants!

Semper Fidelis,

SgtMaj Lewis



Headquarters Battery

Hello HQs family. It's time for the monthly newsletter and it feels like I was writing last month's only yesterday. That means that we are moving right along. Hopefully you have seen the HQs Battery weekend updates that we have been sending out. We try to get that posted around Sunday morning figuring that is when a lot of you have time to take it easy and catch up on Facebook things. We also usually get the photos for the week sent in somewhere around the middle of the week. This month we are celebrating the birthdays of Sgt Johnson, LCpl Tsosie, Sgt Smith, Cpl Araujo, Cpl Cherney, Capt Barefoot, LCpl Sanchez, 1st Lt Rochelle, LCpl Mondragon, WO Bunnell, Sgt Burnside, SSgt Guzman, LCpl Pierce, and LCpl Martinez. We also had the pleasure of promoting the following: Sgt Broene, Cpl Lathrop, LCpl Pleitez, LCpl Morgan and "Doc" Veal was frocked to HM2.

The Marines and Sailors are doing quite well. They continue to uphold the legacy and traditions that have made the Corps stand out for centuries. As the First Sergeant and I move about the camp, we always notice that morale is high which is always a good indicator. Our partnered mission with the Afghan National Army (ANA) is moving right along. There may be a language/cultural barrier but with all barriers, it can be easily overcome through understanding. One thing we do have in common is our martial culture. I must say that I admire them in some of the same ways that I admire the colonial soldiers. The ANA's family members take a great risk. If the enemy were to find out that these families had a soldier serving in the ANA, the families would be in danger. Some of the soldiers have had to move their families around the country to keep them out of danger.

I hope and pray each day that all is well with you back home.

Semper Fidelis,

Capt Jon "HoJo" Howard

Headquarters Battery Cont'd...

If I had to put a label on the last month, it would be that of improvement and settling. There are many improvements going on around the camp that are improving the quality of life for many of us. The mail is coming at a regular interval and as I have said before I don't think there is a single other thing that improves morale more than a box of goodies from home. Everyone's routines are being set and I think that has a lot to do with the speed in which time is going by. The weather is still just about as hot as we can take, but the good news is it seems the days are beginning to get shorter and the nights a bit cooler. The partnering with the Afghan National Army is going well. Most of us here understand that it is these men who will keep our children out of Afghanistan and as such they get a lot of our attention. They are very hospitable and despite the language barrier – easy to work with in most respects.

For those of you back home, know that we miss you more than ever and we cannot wait to be home.

Thank you all for your undying support and all the prayers you have sent our way.

1stSgt Heyward



Alpha Battery

Arson Families and Friends,

Happy Independence Day! The Marines of Arson Battery are excited to spend their 4th of July with brothers in arms at Firebase Saenz and FOB Edinburgh. We had a very special meal prepared for our Marines with steaks, ribs, potatoes, beans and desserts in honor of our celebration. For over 235 years, Marines have celebrated our independence in other countries around the world due to our expeditionary warrior ethos, this year it is no different. Arson Marines are giving our motto "any clime and place" a new meaning and continue to work hard with admirable determination and resolve. The past few weeks have been extremely busy for our battery. Temperatures rise as we continue into summer, however, nights have been pleasantly comfortable. In the evening, the stars are just as clear as they are in Oahu and for a second you are reminded of home. Mail continues to regularly flow into our positions and I appreciate your patience in this matter. Although it may slow at times, it is due to operational necessities that are needed to accomplish our mission. Our Marines understand this better than anyone else. We are already past 2 months into the deployment and before you know it your Marines will be back home eating shave ice, manapuas and spam musubi's with you. 1stSgt Ellington and I appreciate your undying support and ask that you please continue to keep our battery in your prayers and thoughts. Arson on point!

Congratulations to our newly promoted Marines: Sgt Hansen, Corporal Dye and Whittington, Lance Corporals Johnson, Carlson, Conway, and Private First Class Lavergne and Bates. 1stSgt Ellington and I are extremely proud of these Marines for their hard work, leadership and loyalty to our battery. Semper Fidelis.

Respectfully,
Capt Rich Lee



Charlie Battery

Friends and Family of Carnivore Battery,

Yet another month has passed and still your Marines and sailors continue to impress with their motivation, determination, and hard work. Each platoon has tackled new challenges with enthusiasm and aggression and pushed the envelope what they thought was possible.

First Platoon grew the blossoming partnership that first started last month into a nearly daily interaction with many of the Marines with their Afghan National Army (ANA) counterparts. SSgt Hakim has led the engagement by coordinating with the Battery Gunnery Sergeant for our Marines to demonstrate and instructed core artillery skills that included selection of an artillery position, occupation of an artillery position, laying the battery, and crew served weapons classes covering the M240B and M2 .50 cal class. Lt Hudson and Lt Carney, assisted by Sgt Kiminski, provided a demonstration of how to manually calculate firing data for the howitzers. Each subject was instructed by various Marines from the platoon impressing upon the ANA the need for all of their soldiers to be trained in multiple skill sets. Along with training the ANA, 1st Platoon also conducted position improvements throughout the firing point. Led by Sgt Brasley, the Marines built two new hygiene areas that include sinks and mirrors so that everyone's morning routine is just a little bit easier. All the while the Marines still maintained and provide world class fire support for 5 infantry battalions.

Second platoon continues to live a bit more austere life after its return to PAA 8. During a nearly two week time period 2nd Platoon was tasked to move to a new position in order to support our sister battalion from Hawaii, 1/3. This required the platoon to load out almost all of its gear and move nearly 5 miles to a new artillery position PAA 9. The living conditions at PAA 9 were even more Spartan than PAA 8 with the Marines wearing their personal protective equipment (PPE) 24/7, except for when they slept. A new twist for PAA 9 was that all Marines had to dig a trench to sleep in, making for some hard work but providing protection from the elements. During the 11 day operation the Marines experienced 126 degree temperatures and

Charlie Battery Cont'd...

.needless to say the platoon enjoyed returning to their home at PA8 where a special 4th of July celebration was put together by SSgt's Boughton and Potting. While there were no fireworks to be watched, the two SSgt's assembled a professional military education (PME) utilizing the movie "The Patriot" and scenes from the History Channel's mini-series "The Revelation" mixed in with brief history lessons and commentating from battery staff to include the Battalion FAC, MSgt Coca. The movie under the stars provided a nice book end to the second month away from home.

Last but not least we had five Marines who earned promotions on the 1st of July, four rose to the rank of Corporal and one reached the rank of Sergeant. LCpl Thiess (1st Plt FDC) and LCpl Shores (2nd Plt FDC), LCpl Arvizo (1st Plt gun line), LCpl Posson (1st Plt gun line), and LCpl Lamb (2nd Plt gun line) all earned the coveted rank of Corporal; and the duty and honor of becoming a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), the backbone of the Marine Corps. We also had the privilege of promoting one of our two attachments, Cpl Gonzalez from the Bn's survey/MET section, who was promoted to the rank of Sergeant having already demonstrated his abilities as an NCO. We expect continued excellence from these Marines as they begin to bear the burden of additional responsibility.

Capt. Mitch Moore



Echo Battery

Dear Family and Friends,

It is hard to believe that it is already July. We are fully engaged in our mission and the Marines are growing in their abilities and skills. They continue to conduct themselves as true professionals in the midst of some challenging circumstances. Due to some equipment issues with our refrigerators we were without any supplemental chow for about three weeks. We certainly were not starving but we started to crave something other than shelf stable, pre-packed, meals in a box. I had some significant concerns that the 4th of July celebration might not happen as planned. However, thanks to our battalion logistics section and our dedicated Executive Officer, Lt. Dodson and Battery Gunny, GySgt Stevens we received a refrigerator late on the 2nd along with plenty of steaks, ribs, apple pie and coke which arrived late night on the 3rd. Needless to say the 4th of July celebration went off with out a hitch. The SNCOs and Officers decorated the chow hall and to be honest their wives and girlfriends would be impressed. The Marines bellies were filled with 16 oz rib eye steaks, ribs, macaroni and cheese and corn on the cob. All in all it was a fine celebration. All of us truly enjoyed our 4th of July.

Since my last letter the battery has certainly experienced our fair share of challenges. On June 28th we gathered together to honor our fallen brother, Private First Class Josue Ibarra. It was a wonderful service and the Marines took the opportunity to pay their respects to a Marine's Marine whom we have all come to respect and love. His loss has been hard but the Marines who remain here with the battery are committed to accomplishing the mission and honoring our fallen brother with our continued actions as professionals. This year's 4th of July celebration had a special meaning for all of us as we reflected on the early sacrifices of those who gave us the gift of freedom. We continue to work hard in order to uphold that gift and honor their initial sacrifice given 235 years ago.



Echo Battery Cont'd...

In spite of our challenges, morale is extremely high, as the Marines have been a significant source of strength for one another. Since we have been deployed, I have been continually amazed by the resolve of these young men who have earned the title "Marine". It is almost as if they thrive on conflict and adversity. In an era where we enjoy an all volunteer force these men are truly special. It is almost impossible to put into words how uniquely gifted, courageous and caring they are towards each other as well as the people they help to protect. To say that I am proud of your sons, husbands and fathers does not adequately express the feelings in my heart towards them. I am beyond grateful for your support and ask that you continue to share good news from home with them every chance you get. Thank you for all your prayers on our behalf. Please continue to check the battalion facebook page. The 1st Sgt and I will try to continue to update with pictures as much as possible.

Semper Fidelis,

Captain Matt Ritchie



In Memoriam...



**In loving memory of our fallen brother, Private First Class
Josue Ibarra. We will never forget your sacrifice for our
country.**



May you Rest in Peace.



July 2011 Promotions

Rank	LName	FName	MI.	Battery	DOR
SGT	BROENE	ALLEN	J.	HQ	110701
SGT	ERNST	STEVEN	M.	Bravo	110701
SGT	GONZALEZ	EDGAR	J.	Charlie	110701
SGT	HANSEN	TONY	J.	Alpha	110701
SGT	MATA	CARLOS	F.	RBE	110701
SGT	OWENS	JAMES	I.	RBE	110701
CPL	ARVIZO	ALONSO	H.	Charlie	110701
CPL	BERGANZA	BRIAN	J.	Bravo	110701
CPL	DYE	MICHAEL	J.	Alpha	110701
CPL	HERNANDEZ	RUSSAY	C.	RBE	110701
CPL	KANTOR	TONY	I.	Bravo	110701
CPL	KEAR	CHARLES	A.	Bravo	110701
CPL	LAMB	ERIC	J.	Charlie	110701
CPL	LATHROP	TRAVIS	D.	HQ	110701
CPL	PALMA	RICHARD	P.	Bravo	110701
CPL	POSSON	JOHN	E.	Charlie	110701
CPL	SCHNEIDER	MICHAEL	K.	Bravo	110701
CPL	SHORES	JOSHUA	P.	Charlie	110701
CPL	THIESS	JOSHUA	C.	Charlie	110701
CPL	WHITTINGTON	BRANDON	W.	Alpha	110701
LCPL	ANDERSON	ANDREW	J.	RBE	110701
LCPL	BATES	STEPHEN	M.	Alpha	110701
LCPL	CARLSON	MAXWELL	A.	Alpha	110701
LCPL	CONWAY	SCOTT	Z.	Alpha	110701
LCPL	ISABELLE	ERIK	D.	RBE	110701
LCPL	JOHNSON	DANIEL	R.	Alpha	110701
LCPL	LAVERGNE	KENNETH	D.	Alpha	110701
LCPL	MENARD	GUY	A.	RBE	110701
LCPL	MORGAN	BRANDEN	L.	HQ	110701
LCPL	PAIGE	BARRY	C.	RBE	110701
LCPL	PLEITEZ	PEDRO	A.	HQ	110701
LCPL	SIZEMORE	CLIFFORD	J.	Bravo	110701
GYSGT	ROBINSON	RAY	A.	Echo	110701

GUNNERY SERGEANT SELECTION BOARDS

SSGT	CERVANTES	FERNANDO		HQ	
SSGT	SANTILLAN	EDUARDO	T	RBE	
SSGT	SOTO	ANTONIO		HQ	
SSGT	CASTILLE	KENNETH	L	Bravo	

Fun things to do for the month of July!



Looking for something other than the beach or pool to take your Ohana this summer? Well check out all the great activities Oahu has for the month of July at www.gohawaii.com.

Go Hawaii provides families with tons of great activities and events that are sure to tire your keikis out!

Family Fun...



Tiki Island



When the husbands are away, the wives shall play...



Bingo Night



Coming Up...



2nd Annual 1/12 Baby Shower!

Save the date 1/12 Mamas! On August 20th, the 1/12 Ohana will be celebrating your bundles of joy at the Wai-kulu Community Center. Come enjoy some good food, games and gifts. Please make sure you RSVP with the FRO at

Christopher.a.scott@usmc.mil. Childcare will be provided for siblings so please be sure to let the FRO know how many and their ages. Stay tuned for further details.



Pool Party!!

Come join us for a day of swimming at the base pool (across from bowling alley) on Saturday August 27th from noon till 4. Bring your own lunch. Further details will be provided so stay tuned.



Coming Up...



Making Leis!

For the remainder of the deployment, spouses will be meeting twice a month to make Leis for all 535 of our Marines & Sailors. Stay tuned via email and Facebook for meeting location, dates and times.



Back to School Social!

On August 1st, stop by the Family Readiness Center at the Bn next to the FRO's office after your keikis head back to school. From 7:30 to 9:30 come relax, socialize and enjoy coffee and snacks with other Battalion spouses.



American Red Cross

The mission of the American Red Cross (ARC) is to improve the quality of human life; to enhance self-reliance and concern of others; and to help people avoid prepare and cope with emergencies. Services are provided to members of the US Armed Forces, veterans, their families and civilians and include reporting and emergency messages, emergency financial assistance, information and referral, disaster assistance, health and safety courses and volunteer opportunities disaster assistance, health and safety courses and volunteer opportunities.

Types of Messages: (1) Health & Welfare Report; (2) Birth Notification; (3) Death Notification; (4) Leave or Extension of Leave; (5) Doctor ' s Interpretive Statement; (6) Financial Problems; and (7) Personal or Family Problems. A Emergency Red Cross Message is generally categorized as a death or serious illness of an immediate family member (father, mother, brother, sister, in-laws). Grandparents or Legal Guardians may qualify if they stood in place of parents for a period of 5 years or more before the age of 21. Information Required: a) Service member ' s full name; b) rank; c) social security number; d) branch of service; and e) military address/ telephone number.



Base Red Cross - 808-257-8848

Emergency Communication :

877-272-7337



Family Readiness Officer...

Contact the FRO:

- Ensure you have your FCP and In-Locho Parentis completed .
- If you need a copy of the deployment orders
- If you change address or phone numbers
- If you move to the mainland
- VERY IMPORTANT: If you leave the island for any reason please contact the FRO



Christopher A. Scott

Family Readiness Officer

1st Battalion 12th Marines, 3D Mar Div Bldg 1027, 1st
Floor MCBH

Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii 96863

Office: 808-257-3221

CELL: 808-284-3331

Bn Information Hot Line: 1-877-289-0225

Email: christopher.a.scott@usmc.mil

7am—4pm M-F

We are on the web!

Bn Website: www.mcbh.usmc.mil/1-12/112index.htm

Bn Facebook: www.facebook.com/kingofbattle112

Become a Volunteer...



If you are interested in volunteering with 1/12 as a Morale
Support Volunteer by assisting the Family Readiness Officer
during Battalion or Battery level events, please contact your FRO Chris
Scott for more details.

808-257-3221

or

Christopher.a.scott@usmc.mil